

weapon murdered 20 children and 6 staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The love that a parent has for our children is different. It is unique in that our love for everyone else has a beginning, but for our children, our love has no end.

When your child is born, it is hard to understand how you are capable of feeling so much love. It is a love so precious and pure that it flows through your soul. As they grow, your love grows with them. Each day, you can't imagine loving them more, and yet every day you are proven wrong.

Oftentimes we can feel vulnerable with this love and all the fear that comes with it. Being a parent is like that. If everything goes right, if we do everything we can for our children, the very worst can still happen.

Principal Dawn Hochsprung and psychologist Mary Sherlach yelled to their colleagues: "Shooter. Stay put" when they investigated the first shots. They were the first killed as they alerted the others.

Janitor Rick Thorne ran through the hallways alerting classrooms of the danger. He used his master key to lock many of the doors for them. The key was so worn from use that it snapped in one of the doors.

The first graders in Lauren Rousseau's classroom were not allowed to grow. Lauren had worked at Sandy Hook for a week. She had tried to hide them in the bathroom. She had fought to keep them safe. Fifteen of her students were killed. Fifteen first graders were murdered in a bathroom by a man with an assault rifle.

One 6-year-old girl played dead among the bodies of her classmates. She was the only one to survive in that room. Covered in blood, the first thing she said was: "Mommy, I'm okay, but all my friends are dead."

The next room the killer entered was that of Victoria Soto, who did her best to conceal her students in a closet. Some were hiding under desks. As the gunman fired at them with his Bushmaster, he stopped to reload. Six-year-old Jesse Lewis shouted at his classmates to run for safety, and several did. Jesse was looking directly at the shooter when he was murdered.

Anne Marie Murphy, a special education teacher, was found shielding 6-year-old Dylan Hockley. The bullets took them both.

Victoria's sister, Jillian, was captured by photographers in what some call the defining photo of that horrific day. She is forever immortalized on the phone, sobbing, receiving that devastating phone call, the call that is a sucker punch to your stomach, the phone call that brings you to your knees when your desperation simply will not let you stand, that leaves you gasping for air when the agony will not let you breathe.

A decade ago, my child was murdered. The very last day I saw my son, Jordan, he was wearing red sneakers.

He had khaki-colored slacks on and a black backpack slung over his shoulder as he walked out the door. He said: "I love you, mom" before he got on the plane to Jacksonville, Florida. Jordan talked about coming home for Thanksgiving, and that day still haunts me.

In Newtown, parents watched their children walk out the front door, and some never saw them again. We are left only with the memories of our loved ones and the lost dreams of what could have been.

Parents may move forward but never fully heal. They never fully recover.

In honor of their legacy, it is imperative we continue to fight for lifesaving policies such as universal background checks, safe storage, ghost gun regulation, an assault weapons ban, and so much more.

In the words of a well-known writer:

"To value life of others  
"Is to acknowledge the sanctity of yours  
"To feel for the ruin of others  
"Is to respect the existence of yours  
"To fight for the freedom of others  
"Is to preserve the liberty of yours"

#### CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my hometown, the city of Zeeland, on its 175th anniversary.

Throughout the first week of October, friends and residents of this small but vibrant city in west Michigan gathered together to celebrate and share memories of the community's storied history.

The village of Zeeland was established in 1847 when nearly 500 Dutch citizens, led by James Van de Luyster, sailed from Zeeland in the Netherlands to pursue religious freedom and self-rule. I will note that my own family came in the second wave that same year of 1847 and has proudly been ensconced in the city of Zeeland since then.

After settling on 16,000 acres of land, one of the first buildings established was a church. Here, Reverend Cornelius van der Meulen became the first spiritual leader and pastor to the Zeeland colonists, offering hope and courage as the settlers cleared thick forests and tackled this new land.

As the center of the community, the church served as a place of worship on Sundays as well as a school on the weekdays, with instruction provided in both English and in Dutch.

A burgeoning manufacturing and agriculture sector, as well as a post office helped Zeeland to grow, leading to incorporation as a city in 1907. Now, the 1900s were a time of growth in Zeeland. In fact, my own father served over 30 years on the city council from the late 1960s up until the 1990s.

While the city has grown, one thing has remained a constant: The innova-

tive, entrepreneurial, close-knit, and welcoming community continues to make Zeeland a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, let us join in recognizing all former and current residents of the city of Zeeland as they celebrate their 175th anniversary.

#### THE GREAT PRIVILEGE OF SERVING THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with mixed emotions, as this will likely be the final time that I speak in front of this Chamber as a Member of Congress.

For the last 22 years, I have had the great privilege of serving the people of Rhode Island's Second Congressional District. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the voice and vote of my constituents, and I am so humbled by the faith and the trust that they have placed in me all these years.

After my accident, it was my community that was there for me when I needed them the most, and it was their constant love and support, along with my family, which ultimately inspired me to run for office as a way of giving back.

My journey to recovery was not always an easy one, but thanks to my family, my faith, and my community, I was able to move forward and become the first quadriplegic ever elected to the United States Congress.

For the last 36 years, I have woken up every day with one goal in mind: giving good public service to the people of Rhode Island. That focus has held true since my early days in public service, beginning when I was elected as a delegate to Rhode Island's Constitutional Convention, continued through my time in the General Assembly and as the Nation's youngest secretary of state, and it has remained strong throughout my final days as a United States Congressman.

I will forever be grateful for the enduring friendships and lifetime memories that I have forged here in this body. But most of all, I am so proud of all that we have been able to accomplish for the people of Rhode Island and the United States.

I have fought to protect and advance the rights of Americans with disabilities, moving our society closer to becoming fully inclusive and accessible for all.

On the Committee on Armed Services, I have led the efforts to strengthen our national security, and cybersecurity, in particular, and I have been proud to support the hardworking men and women of my district who build the world's finest nuclear submarines at Electric Boat.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, I